

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Giessen youths work for Eagle badges

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

Who says today's youth don't care? Eric Magoon, 16, C.J. Young, 13, and Brian Tanner, 14, all of Scout Troop 37 in Giessen, have been spending their weekends building a new recreation area in Giessen's Marshall Housing. In addition to helping others, the project is another step for the teens toward becoming Eagle Scouts.

"The Eagle Scout project has to be a benefit for the community they are living in," said Kenneth Dick, chairman and Scout leader of Troop 37. "We all sat down together and discussed what we could do. After deciding to build a recreation area with four grills and two pavilions by the ballfield in Marshall Housing we got approval from the 284th Base Support Battalion commander, Col. Bender, who is also funding the project."

Tanner was tasked with building the grills. Young and Magoon took on the construction of the two pavilions.

"The boys had to sit down and come up with a list of the materials and tools they needed. After we went through every detail the boys had to put everything in writing," said Dick.

"This was the hardest part for me because it had to be done in English. I go to a German school so it was hard to always find the right words," said Tanner, whose father is

American and whose mother is German. "Cleaning was hard too. Sometimes I was almost dead from all the work," he said.

"The project began with a campout in which other Boy Scouts participated, so we had eight boys and two adults helping with the clean up. We tore out the rusty fences that were here and leveled out the dirt. They had to scrape off the old PVC tiles and put



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Eric Magoon (left) and C.J. Young saw wood as they construct a recreation area in Marshall Housing.

them into sacks. The old tree stumps and rusty old fences had to be removed and the old posts rolled to one side," said Dick.

"We got some help from my father, who is a first sergeant at the 16th Engineer Battalion," said Magoon. "His company provided us a small equipment excavator truck with an operator. This helped us a lot."

"I did not like the location at first. I thought there must be a better place to build a recreation area, but now that we have cleaned it up I realize that it is pretty nice over here," said Young.

"Brian is already building the grills. Eric and I are still waiting for the materials we need to build the pavilion. While we wait we have started preparations for the pavilions. We have to clean the concrete slabs and make borders to even out the chipped sides so that we have a nice surface," Young said.

While working on individual tasks the trio have learned that they have to help each other out. The grills will be finished first, but Tanner will help Young and Magoon finish the pavilions, said Dick. Teamwork is just one of the lessons learned so far, said the scouts.

"I've learned how to be responsible, to work safely and how to plan and work on a project. You have to work hard to reach your goals," said Tanner.

"I got a lot of support from my parents and they pushed me along. This helped me a lot. It kind of shows you what to do when you are an adult," said Young.

"It takes a lot of preparation before you start working, and you have to prepare everything right. My dad used to be a scout master, and I receive a lot of support from him. Earning the Eagle Scout badge will be useful for me in the future because I want to be an entomologist, that's a scientist who works with insects, and I thought about joining the Naval Reserves," said Magoon.

The Scouts expect to have the project finished by mid-May.

"I am not sure if I can bring my parents along when we are done with the picnic area, but I hope so. I'd like to show it to them, especially to my mom since she has no access to the installation," said Tanner.

"We are leaving this summer so I don't know if I will get to use the area, but I hope the community will enjoy using it," said Young.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Brian Tanner constructs grills as part of his community service project.

SAC seeks members for next school year

By Staff Sgt. Paul King
284th Base Support Battalion
Area Support Team

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and the search is on for parents to join School Advisory Committees for next year.

This year's Giessen Elementary School School Advisory Committee was busy throughout the year, working to better student achievement. Working closely with the Parent, Teacher, Student Association and principal Barbara Mueller, the SAC organized a student recognition program and a mentor program. Both have inspired children to study harder and achieve excel-

lence.

The SAC recognition program promoted accountability, responsibility, punctuality, initiative and creativity in students, awarding certificates and publicly recognizing such positive characteristics.

The mentor program started in April, making additional practice in reading and mathematics available to students. Mentoring continues every Thursday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Mentors have included volunteers from area Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers and the Giessen Middle-High School's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps in addition to par-

ent volunteers.

The SAC is happy and proud to have put these programs in place, and seeks parents to volunteer for next year's SAC to keep the momentum going. Exactly what role does SAC play in the school? It advises the principal concerning all aspects of school operations and makes recommendations to improve the educational experience of Giessen's children.

Areas of concern include:

- ✧ School policies toward students and parents
- ✧ Student activities
- ✧ Administrative procedures affecting students

✧ Instructional programs and educational resources within the school

✧ Allocation of school resources

✧ Student services

✧ Student standards of conduct and discipline

✧ Issues for referral to the Installation Advisory Committee

✧ Inviting qualified speakers to address specific problems

✧ Participating in briefings on school accreditation and school task groups

✧ Keeping the community aware of plans and programs initiated in the school.

The SAC does not engage in political campaigns or issues, or intervene in personnel actions of individual staff members.

Get involved

Elections for committee members will be held before the end of this school year. There will be three official or voting parent positions and three teacher positions. All interested parents are invited to attend any and all meetings. To learn more attend a SAC meeting.

The final SAC meeting of the year will be held June 5 at 3 p.m. in the library. For more information call the school at mil 343-7248/6690 or civ (0641) 402-7248/6690.

284th BSB – Friedberg, Giessen

Giessen, Friedberg units ready to go

By Alexandra Williams and
Petra Roberts

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs
Office

The 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery Regiment, the 16th Engineer Battalion and the 1st Armored Division Engineer Brigade finished railhead loading at the end of April.

The units prepared their soldiers and equipment for deployment to the Central Command's area of responsibility for months before the loading ended. Vehicles were to move by train to ports in Holland and Belgium for shipment to the Persian Gulf.

"A series of deployment oriented exercises and load out rehearsals produced superb results and lessons learned," said Engineer Brigade commander, Col. Don C. Young. "We incorporated the lessons learned as we worked hard on our vehicles, equipment, load plans and transportation documentation. The results of all of the training and preparations have paid off immensely. The bottom line is that our soldiers and families are prepared for this deployment."

"Though the mission kept changing the 1st Brigade stayed focused on our training. We didn't just do our regular training, but also many other things the units have never done before," said 2-3rd FA commander, Lt. Col. William Rabena.

"We also conducted deployment exercises and Installation Staging Areas. Our soldiers went to the weapon ranges and re-



Photo by Petra Roberts

Debbie Krabbe (left), a Family Readiness Group leader of F Troop, Brigade Reconnaissance Team, Jill Sloat and her 8-month-old daughter Abigail add their names to a quilt the BRT will take along to Iraq.

ceived code of conduct briefings. During these briefings they learned how to treat a prisoner, they received information about the Iraqis in general and briefings about the country. Everybody prepared for this de-

ployment so much and I can say that they we are definitely prepared," he said.

Big role for home front

Rear detachment and Family Readiness Group leaders played a big role in getting ready to roll out, said Rabena. "Those people play an important role. Capt. Ashmore, my rear detachment commander, works very closely with the FRLs and this helps a lot. He gets the information out. He talks to the families and soldiers. When the soldiers know that their families are taken care of they can concentrate on the mission," he said.

"We also have co-family readiness leaders. That's new for our battalion. If one of our FRLs decides to go on leave there is a co-leader to take care of everything. This prevents the group from falling apart. To me all this has helped our soldiers concentrate on our upcoming mission," Rabena said.

Family deployment fests were held in Giessen and Friedberg to bring together soldiers and families before soldiers began deploying.

Debbie Krabbe, FRG leader of F Troop, Brigade Reconnaissance Team, asked the

unit's family members to sign a handmade, heart-shaped quilt, which the unit will take to the Gulf to remind them of their loved ones back home.

"We take care of every soldier. We will send out care packages every week, to include the single soldiers. The kids will write letters and send them. Each of our soldiers will receive mail every week. We are a family and we want to make sure that the soldiers know that they are missed," said Krabbe.

"The are well trained and they are ready. We know that they will be safe. We, the families, will all stay here and be here when they come back," she said.

Family Readiness Group activities include painting banners and posters, helping and taking care of each other, and extending that support to the families of deployed soldiers of other units as well. The family fests were a way to bring together soldiers and families who may not have had a chance to meet one another before. Now they know they have a family to fall back on if needed, said Krabbe.

German Bundeswehr soldiers who also enjoyed the fest were taken by the turnout and the festive ambiance. "This is great. The Bundeswehr does not celebrate like this," said Obergefreiter (Sgt.) Rainer Bogdanski of Company 4, Armored Engineer Battalion 801. What did he feel about his new friends deploying to the Gulf? "They are ready," said Bogdanski.

Brigade Combat Team to be based at Graf

U.S. Army Europe is preparing facilities at Grafenwöhr to accommodate a Brigade Combat Team in the years ahead as part of the Army's overall goal to use its installations more efficiently, said officials. Known as Efficient Basing-East, the program is in keeping with the Army's goal to station a BCT on a single installation with the objective of being able to project the force quickly anywhere in the world.

Current plans are to move six battalion-sized units of a BCT from other locations in Germany to Grafenwöhr in a phased, incremental approach from fiscal years 2006-2008. The move will involve approximately 3,400 soldiers and 5,000 family members.

The consolidation of assets at one site has tremendous operational value for the team, enhancing its military capabilities in terms of training and ease of deployment. Units at Grafenwöhr will have immediate access to major training areas and transportation networks including railheads and airports. Currently the brigade has battalions dispersed over many different locations with families living in other areas. The consolidation at Grafenwöhr will mean the brigade commander can exercise more effective and timely command and control of major combat resources.

"This is very efficient from any perspective," said Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, who briefed a visiting congressional delegation April 18 on Friedberg's Ray Barracks. "This is our best training facility in Europe. This is what we ought to do for America."

The consolidation at Grafenwöhr will mean that soldiers and equipment will spend less time traveling back and forth for training at the Army's major training areas at Grafenwöhr and Hohenfels. That will mean more time for family, training and actual deployments, reduced wear and tear on German roads and rails, and a lessened burden of convoys on the smaller German towns.

Families will be closer to community and medical facilities,

reducing their need to drive long distances for basic services. The consolidation will result in reduced base operations expenses, enhanced force protection and improved well-being for soldiers and families, who will benefit from proximity to quality of life facilities. "In fact the Hohenfels area right now has the highest re-enlistment rates in the Army because people want to stay in their homes," said Russell B. Hall, Installation Management Agency-Europe director.

Preparations at Grafenwöhr include construction of new

family housing on and off post, barracks, maintenance and unit operations facilities, as well as the renovation and expansion of support facilities such as child care. The work will be completed incrementally to coincide with the phased arrival of soldiers as facilities are completed. Overall, the action represents no change to the 62,000 active duty Army positions authorized in USAREUR, said officials.

EB-E consists of 81 square miles of facilities, three times the size of Fort Stewart, Ga., said Bell. "This is what we call

a Table XII battle maneuver training area. If you don't have Table XII ranges you're not doing it. Everybody in America says this is the right answer. The world would have to end before we didn't do this," he said.

Congress authorized \$25 million in fiscal year 2001 to allow USAREUR to conduct planning and technical feasibility design work for the infrastructure upgrades, construction and renovation projects at Grafenwöhr to realize EB-E. Planning and design began in November 2001 and will continue throughout the life of the program.

For fiscal year 2003 \$70 million worth of projects have been funded, and construction will begin at Grafenwöhr this summer. "We are just at the front end of the first construction of EB-E this year," said Bell. (Courtesy of the Installation Management Agency-Europe Public Affairs Office. David Ruderman contributed to the article)



Photo by Bob Purttman

Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Mich., chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, greets Bundeswehr guards on Friedberg's Ray Barracks April 18 while Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander, looks on. Knollenberg toured U.S. military installations in Europe with Rep. Chet Edwards, D.-Texas, ranking member of the subcommittee, and Rep. Ron Lewis, R.-Ky., of the House Ways and Means Committee.

284th BSB — Friedberg, Giessen

Community spotlight

Preschool story time changes

Story time at the Butzbach Outreach Center has been cancelled. The 284th Base Support Battalion Library presents preschool story time every Friday through June 20 at 10 a.m. at the Bad Nauheim Community Center. It is free and open to all toddlers and parents. For details call mil 343-1740.

Preseparation briefing May 27

The Giessen transition center holds a preseparation briefing May 27 at 9 a.m. in Building 7, Room 312, on the Giessen Depot. For details call Stephen Bailey at mil 343-6505.

German head-start classes for family members

The Friedberg Education Center offers German head-start classes for family members during the deployment. Classes are held Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To enroll call Renate Feldmann at the Giessen Education Center at mil 343-7152/8103.

Kontakt Club offers free mail out

The Giessen Kontakt Club will host a free mail out to deployed soldiers May 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the lobby of the Giessen Post Exchange. Kontakt Club members will package, label and mail MPS packages up to 60 pounds for soldiers, family members and friends of deployed soldiers. Customers must only fill out shipping and customs labels. Insured or unauthorized items will not be accepted for mailing.

Children's display at the Alpine

School-Age Services invites the community to a Character Counts exhibit May 19 from 5-6 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. A display of children's artwork will be featured. Refreshments will be provided and information about Character Counts will be available. For details call mil 343-6951.

Kudos to award recipients

Congratulations to the recipients of the Molly Pitcher medal: Ruby Sims, Luigina Covongton, Christiane Kielpinski, Demra Ashmore and Linda Baker. The following soldiers were awarded the St. Barbara's medal: Capts. Michael Kielpinski, Stephen Kuhaida and John Mostellar, Master Sgt. Pablo Goridan, Sgts. 1st Class Pedro Schaffino and Aaron Smart, and Staff Sgts. Daniel Odom, Richard Sims and Terry Payton.

Jobs at Arts and Crafts

Friedberg Arts and Crafts seeks instructors for quilting, clothes-making and ceramics classes. Instructors may choose to become regular employees or serve as Non Appropriated Fund con-



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Friends from start to finish

Hendrick Hollender (center left), chairman of the Friedberg City Council, takes to the trail with soldiers during a 1st Brigade run May 1 to demonstrate friendly ties to the community.

tractors. For information call mil 324-3266 or civ (06031) 813 266.

IACS registration on now

The 284th Base Support Battalion Installation Access Control Office, located in Building 5, (Military Police), Room 104, has extended opening hours. Service is available Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Registration continues through the end of August. For information call mil 343-9805 or civ (0641) 402-9805.

Installation Pass office moves

The 284th Base Support Battalion Installation Pass Office has moved to Building 5, Room 109. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1-4 p.m. Call Lenard Mason at mil 343-6609 or civ (0641) 402-6609 for information.

Outdoor Recreation trips

Outdoor Recreation will run a trip to Six Flags and Amsterdam May 17-18, including bus transportation, park entry, dinner and one overnight stay with breakfast. A trip to Costa Brava, Spain, will take place May 22-26. The trip includes bus transportation, two overnights, two breakfasts, three dinners and a half-day guided tour of Barcelona. For

prices and departure times call mil 343-8202.

Health and Wellness fair May 16

The 284th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness Center in Giessen will host the fourth annual Health and Wellness Fair May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alpine Club on Giessen Depot. Free health screenings and cholesterol checks will be available. For information call Danny Sullivan at mil 343-6384 or civ (0641) 402-6384.

What's up at ACAP

The Giessen Army Career and Alumni Program office will sponsor a Veterans Affairs benefits briefing May 13 from 9-11:30 a.m. in Building 7, Room 312, on Giessen Depot. Topics include the GI Bill, VA home loan guarantees, life insurance and disability claims. Everyone is welcome to attend. The next Job Search Workshop for transitioning soldiers and their spouses will be held May 20-21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call the office to register. All transitioning soldiers regardless of their type of separation must attend mandatory pre-separation counseling as early as possible. No orders are necessary. Soldiers who are within one year of their original ETS date or within two years of a retirement date before a deployment may attend ACAP briefings before they deploy. Call 343-9332 for infor-

mation.

Summer jobs available

The 284th Base Support Battalion Youth Services and School-Age Services have openings for summer camp counselors in Giessen and Butzbach from June 16 to Aug. 29. Applicants must be 18 or older. For information call the NAF Personnel Office at mil 343-8618.

DeCA celebrates military families

The Giessen Commissary celebrates military families with a day of music, giveaways, demonstrations and more May 17 starting at noon. For information call mil 343-8448 or civ (0641) 402-8448.

Vacation Bible School volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to support the Vacation Bible Schools in Friedberg and Bad Nauheim from June 23-27, and in Giessen and Butzbach from July 28 to Aug. 1. Child care will be provided for volunteers. Contact Bobbi McKenna at mck4@prodigy.net, civ (06031) 169 871 or Jessica Ayers at jessereneeburce@hotmail.com, civ (06035) 189 349 for information in Bad Nauheim and Friedberg. For Giessen and Butzbach call Jennifer Matthews at mil 343-8020/7794 or civ (0641) 402-8020/7794.

Health and Wellness Fair at Alpine Club

All welcome to fourth, free annual event

By Mark Smith
284th Base Support Battalion Sports Office

Are you really health conscious? Are you working on losing a few of those extra pounds? The first step is to assess your general state of health.

The 284th Base Support Battalion Sports and Fitness Office invites all community members to the fourth annual Health and Wellness Fair May 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Alpine Club on the Giessen Depot. Door prizes will be

awarded.

Certified nutritionists and dieticians will be on hand to inform and educate as will representatives of Women, Infants and Children-Overseas, Army Family Advocacy Program, Army Community Service and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

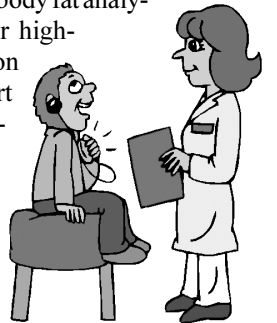
Free screenings

Free cholesterol screenings, the lipid profile that includes total, HDL, LDL, triglyceride and glucose readings, will also be available while supplies last. This is one of the most sophisticated cholesterol checks available. For best results health professionals recommend that community members fast for at least 12 hours before the testing. If

that's not possible four to six hours of fasting will be sufficient.

Blood pressure screenings and body fat analysis will also be conducted. Other highlights of the fair will be information tables run by the Diabetes Support Group, Healthy Baby and Pregnancy information, Army Family Advocacy, religious care from BSB chaplains, USO, Red Cross, educational and financial institutions and much more.

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of this one-stop health check.



Camp 'Jammin' registration under way

The 284th Base Support Battalion Youth Services will host Camp "B Jammin'" this summer for children 11-15 years old. The first five weeks of the 10-week program will be held at the Giessen YS in Building 1714. The second five weeks will be held at the Butzbach YS.

The cost is \$40 per week. Participants must be registered at Central Registration. Transportation from outlying areas will be provided upon

request. The camp is closed on American holidays.

Each week will emphasize a new theme:

☉ June 16-20 — **Friendship Week** including a trip to Europa Park and swimming.

☉ June 23-27 — **Health and Well-being** including a trip to Warner

Brother's Movieland and swimming.

☉ June 30 to July 4 — **Patriotic Week** including a trip to Geiselwind and swimming.

☉ July 7-11 — **Ultimate Journey** including a trip to Berger Zoo and swimming.

☉ July 14-18 —

Leadership including a trip to Holiday Park and swimming.

☉ July 21-25 — **History** including a trip to Geiselwind and swimming.

☉ July 28 to Aug. 1 — **Wet and Wild** including a trip to the Frankfurt wave pool.

☉ From Aug. 4-8 — **Music** including a trip to Europa Park.

☉ From Aug. 11-15 — **Careers** including a trip to Warner Brother's

Movieland and swimming.

☉ Aug. 18-22 — **Last Blast Week** including PX shopping tours and swimming at the Frankfurt wave pool.

☉ Aug. 25-28 — **Half days of Fun** including activities from noon to 4 p.m. and the mother of all barbecues as the season finale.

For details call Central Registration at mil 343-7028/8216 or civ (0641) 402-7028/8216.



Photo by Alexandra Williams

Every day is Earth Day

Girl Scouts of Junior Troops 113, 152 and a Brownie troop clean up Whiddon Park on the Giessen Depot on a recent Friday afternoon. The Scouts and Brownies collected sacks full of leaves, branches, beer bottles and soda cans for proper disposal.

Craving a tropical breeze?

On 30 May, 12 - 4 p.m., join in on the festivities of the **Giessen/Friedberg Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration.**

Free delicious island food, door prizes, music, a martial arts demonstration by the Panther Martial Arts Club, activities for kids & much more!

Celebration takes place at Marshall Housing, Giessen (Look for the canopies; follow your nose and ears. You can't miss it!)

***Inclement weather location will be the Alpine Catering Center.**

Excelling at Hanau High School

Hanau junior earns spot at prestigious summer program

By David Ruderman

104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

Like any superb performer Kyla Bye-Nagel makes it all look so easy.

The Hanau High School junior was selected last month to participate in the prestigious Research Science Institute summer program, one of three Department of Defense Dependents Schools students worldwide to be accepted, but she hardly crowed about her accomplishment.

"I'm nervous," said Bye-Nagel, explaining that she's not sure what to expect during the summer program.

RSI is run jointly by the Center for Excellence and Education and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was founded by Adm. Hyman G. Rickover, generally considered the father of America's nuclear navy. Bye-Nagel will attend lectures in an array of scientific fields and the humanities, pursue research projects under the guidance of MIT faculty and enjoy a fair amount of informal learning and socializing. Participants will also hike New Hampshire's Mt. Washington and attend the Boston Pops Fourth of July concert in Boston.

Bye-Nagel wasn't sure exactly what kind of research she would conduct at RSI. "I put down engineering on the thing, but I don't know. I said I was interested in medical technology." In a sense it won't matter. Whatever project she pursues Bye-Nagel will experience six weeks of intensive exposure to higher learning and the scientific method.

"She thrives on reading, study, knowledge and learning. I think she enjoys working

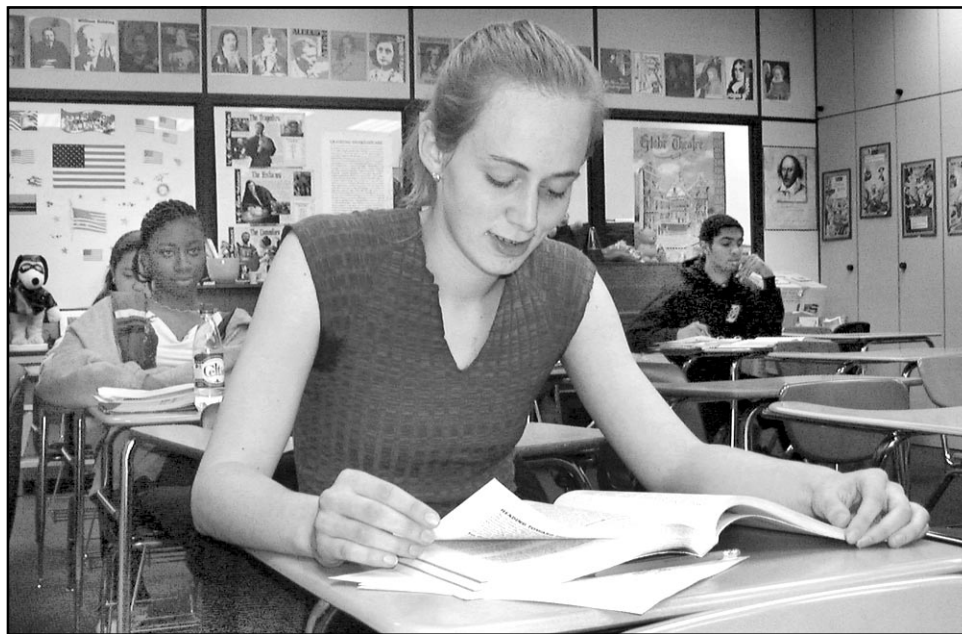


Photo by Karl Weisel

Kyla Bye-Nagel, a Hanau junior, has been selected to attend the Research Science Institute summer program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

with other people of like caliber," said seminar teacher Jana Eller. "I think she's written one of the best term papers I've ever read in my life." The subject was the Holocaust.

"The kids in her class know she's smart, but she's not a show-off. In general I don't think the kids would think she's any different," said Hanau High School principal Jennifer Rowland.

Is she considered "uncool" by her less accomplished peers? "All my friends are smart, so I wouldn't know," said Bye-Nagel. "I was not a geek. I think only my friends know that I'm smart because this is the first year I've gotten a 4.0." Actually, with extra credits assigned for Advance Placement courses, Bye-Nagel's Grade Point Average is 4.6, something akin to an A+ and then some.

"She's costing me big bucks because she's gone past anything that DoDDS has,"

said Rowland. The school will pay for Bye-Nagel's transportation to RSI and arranges for her to take classes through distance learning because she has exhausted the courses available to her at Hanau.

This year she's taking AP physics and statistics. Next year she wants to study the Java computer scripting language and take the AP computer course. "It's OK. I have to take two classes by myself. I could handle more challenging stuff, but I wouldn't want just more work. There's a difference," said Bye-Nagel.

Where does she want to attend college? "Yale, MIT or Johns Hopkins," she said. Not Harvard? "No. They don't have what I want."

Does she have any advice for younger students? "No. I don't study — that's why I don't have any advice. I never have and I hope I never will. This is the first time I've ever had to work at stuff. I just learn it from the homework I do."

What does she read in her spare time? "I just read fiction in general. I just read something really junky sometimes, and then I go and read 'Pride and Prejudice.' It's all fun to read."

Bye-Nagel is a member of both the Hanau High volleyball and soccer squads, and revealed a flash of pride about how well the latter is doing this season. "We're the best team in the division, but nobody knows about us yet," she said.

"She's also a very, very good artist," said Rowland.

"I guess I'm sort of an artist. I like pastels and charcoals. I don't know," said Bye-Nagel.

Acceptance to RSI means she won't be spending a lot of time with her family this summer. "My mom's excited, but she said she's not coming to the airport because she doesn't want to make me cry." Her mother, Marleen Bye, is a music teacher at Gelnhausen and Sportfield elementary schools. Her father, Galen Nagel, is a third-grade teacher at

Gelnhausen. Her sister Kyri attends ninth-grade at Hanau High, excels in languages and is a German league pole-vaulting and track star, said Rowland. A second sister, 10-year-old Krista, attends Gelnhausen El-

ementary School.

Bye-Nagel's parents have a new lake home in Minnesota where they will summer for the first time, but she won't be seeing much of it this year. "It gives me three weeks," said Bye-Nagel.

"She thrives on reading, study, knowledge and learning. I think she enjoys working with other people of like caliber."



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Safer playgrounds

Children at Old Argonner Kaserne play on the new, safer equipment installed throughout the housing areas in the 414th Base Support Battalion. More than \$650,000 was invested to upgrade playgrounds, picnic areas and for other equipment. The project, accomplished by BOS GmbH, included new swing sets, play villages, new seesaws, slides, concrete picnic tables and wooden sitting and table ensembles. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the project's completion was held in mid-April.

Suicide prevention training

Course aimed at caregivers, leaders

The 414th Base Support Battalion will sponsor a two-day Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training workshop for members of the community June 5-6 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The workshop will provide participants with the attitudes, knowledge and skills necessary to recognize and assess the risk of suicidal behavior and to undertake appropriate management or referral of a person at risk of suicide, course officials said.

Mental health resources are limited in local communities, and the professionals who work with persons at risk are often not readily accessible when subtle signs or symptoms signal that an individual may be having thoughts of suicide. Since these traditional caregivers may not be positioned to quickly recognize and respond to a person at risk, large numbers of other caregivers need to be trained.

These other caregivers are often first to encounter a person at risk.

With training, they can help to prevent the immediate risk in an effective and timely manner.

Skillful intervention from any caregiver can also have long-term prevention benefits. The likelihood of future suicidal behavior may be greatly reduced just by the interven-

tion experience alone, officials said.

The more caregivers who are trained the better, officials said. First-line supervisors, teachers, administrators, Family Readiness Group leaders and program managers are among the target audience — anyone in a position to notice changes in behavior that might indicate suicidal tendencies.

ASIST is designed to improve caregivers' abilities to intervene until either the immediate danger of suicide is reduced or additional assistance or resources can be accessed.

The workshop is designed to provide caregivers with emergency "first aid skills" for helping persons at risk of suicidal behavior.

ASIST is a standardized learning experience, officials said. Caregivers get a chance to share and work with other types of caregivers. Bonds are built and a common understanding is developed — all greatly increasing the possibility of increased collaboration and effectiveness in a given community.

If you would like to attend the ASIST workshop, contact the 414th BSB staff chaplain, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Jack Aupke, at mil 322-1570 or by email at john.aupke@104asgexch.hanau.army.mil.

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

'Farewell Iron Soldiers'



Photo by Martin Greeson

Maj. Gen. Ricardo S. Sanchez, 1st Armored Division commander, salutes during a farewell ceremony. Photo left: Col. David Lawrence (left), 4th Brigade commander, and Sanchez inspect 4th Brigade soldiers during their Deployment Farewell Ceremony on Fliegerhorst Kaserne April 28. Soldiers and families bid farewell to members of 4th Brigade, the 1st and 2nd of the 501st Aviation, 127th Aviation Support Battalion and 55th Personnel Service Battalion.

Photo by Karl Weisel



Photo by Wolfgang Niebling



Photo by Karl Weisel

Members of the Hanau Army Community Service hold up signs wishing soldiers and their families well during the Iraq deployment at 4th Brigade's farewell ceremony. Photo left: Soldiers stand in formation during a farewell ceremony for 1-1st Cavalry in Büdingen. The 1st Armored Division commander, who was recently nominated for a third star and to take command of V Corps, told local soldiers, "There's no doubt in my mind that Old Ironsides soldiers will shine. ... I look forward to seeing you in Baghdad."

Students learn to stay safe on school buses

By Marcy Yanoff
Special to the Herald Union

Would your children know what to do in case of an emergency onboard a school bus? Would they know how to evacuate the bus in case of fire?

Each year in April the Hanau School Bus Transportation Office conducts a presentation of school bus safety rules in Germany.

A few years ago, the Department of Defense Dependents Schools European Transportation Division produced a lively video on the basic rules of bus safety. "The plan

this year," said a school official, "was for the children to once again see the video. Many of our children had already seen it several times."

Jerome Thomas, transportation specialist from the School Bus Office and myself decided that children learn better from experience. We put together a demonstration in which the children could participate. A German school bus was brought onto the school playground just outside the Information Center. After a brief presentation in the center, two classes at a time boarded the bus.

Thomas provided the children with a more

complete presentation of what problems could happen in the event of fire. Children were advised to "get down on the floor of the bus 'as low as they can go,' crawl to the nearest exit and quickly get off the bus."

I learned a lot of new things this year by actually being on board the bus," said Michelle Williams, a Gelnhausen Elementary School third-grader. "I learned why we can't bring CD players onboard, how fires usually start and how I should get off so as not to choke from smoke."

When asked which demonstration she

liked the best, Michelle said, "I enjoyed crawling off the bus, but I guess a combination of Both. Each gave us lots of things to learn about."

One piece of information that surprised the children was that if they take a bus to school, and they must walk to the bus stop, they need to walk with at least one friend or parent and never alone. Many said they didn't think their parents were aware of that.

Transportation officials planned to share the demonstration with other local schools in the future.

Students study their environment

Learn about local plant life in nearby Hanau forest for Earth Day

Story and photos by Karl Weisel
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office

"Are there crocodiles in the water?" "How can you tell the stinging nettle from all of the other plants?" "Are there poisonous snakes in the woods?"

These were a few of the questions raised during a special Earth

Day field trip to the Bulau nature preserve in Hanau May 5. Pupils from Jon Biehler's third-grade Sportfield Elementary School class joined Dagmar Trittin and Evelyn Roth of the 414th Base Support Battalion's Directorate of Public Works to learn more about the many species in the nearby forest and ways to protect their environment. "This is kind of late in the year

because Earth Day was last month and we wanted to show them some of the flowers that bloom earlier, but most school trips were canceled because of increased force protection measures," said Trittin, an environmental protection specialist.

"What can you do everyday to keep the environment clean?" asked Trittin of the students at their first stop in the woods where several leftover fast food wrappers were strewn around a bench.

Recycling habit

"Recycle," said several students enthusiastically.

"Exactly — we'll save on raw

materials if we recycle," Trittin told the students. "It's great to enjoy the outdoors, to go on hikes and picnics, but always take your trash back home with you."

Getting students into the recycling habit is "something you have to start the kids off with at the beginning of the year," said Biehler. "You have to train them — it's an ongoing process."

"We try to treat every day like Earth Day in the classroom," said Biehler. "We look for articles about recycling and the environment, and we recycle." That includes composting biodegradable leftovers, he said.

"It really gets the kids thinking about it, and it has made quite a difference in the amount of trash we produce. Now it's negligible," said Biehler.

Students gathered around Roth, a member of the 414th BSB DPW's Operations and Maintenance Division, as she described the various plants gathered from the forest floor, ways they mature and ones which can be eaten. A walk through the forest and along the Kinzig River bank took the students across a wooden bridge, past bats' nests and to the site of the former riverbed.

Showing the students a local flower with leaves smelling of garlic, Roth told the students, "If you collect plants you really have to be

very careful so that you aren't poisoned." She described the case of a German hobbyist who died after inadvertently consuming a plant he thought was the Garlic plant.

Reaching young children and getting them into the recycling habit is crucial to educating everyone about the Separate Or Recycle Trash program, said Trittin. Children take the information home with them and influence the other members of their family to get into the habit.

"There's still a lot of education needed to get people to recycle properly," she added.

For more information about local environmental issues and the SORT program call Trittin at mil 322-8079 or your local DPW.



Evelyn Roth describes various plants and their uses to Sportfield Elementary students.



Sportfield Elementary School third-graders search the former Kinzig riverbed for unusual plant specimens during a field trip to the Bulau nature preserve. The youths discussed recycling and plant life cycles.

Original play focuses on environmental issues

Performance teaches about recycling

By Melody Joy Fields
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

"Sometimes Styrofoam gets into the ocean, and seals and seagulls, they can choke or their digestive system shuts down and they die," said a student in Nettie Brazile-Eddie's second grade class at Argonner Elementary School.

Deep concern wrinkled his brow as he explained the important message of his class's play "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute."

The one-act play, complete with two original songs, was performed in front of the entire student body to commemorate Earth Day. Characters such as Woodsy Owl, Danny Deer and Fred and Freda Fish explained the impact trash can have on waterways, animals and the air.

The students said they hoped it would

make clear the importance of environmental awareness.

"The play's about recycling and not littering," said another student, "and it teaches a lesson not to litter."

"We don't want you to pollute, so the land can be healthy," said a fellow pupil.

The project was a culmination of several weeks studying the environment for their science lessons.

Students worked on set decoration and costumes along with volunteers from the community. "We have good cemetery," said a student. "Scenery," corrected his classmates. "And we're gonna have a pizza party at lunch," he responded.

The students seemed pleased with their project and eager to move onto the next assignment. "Next week is the Rain Forest and birds and insects," said a student.



Photo by Melody Joy Fields

Nettie Brazile-Eddie's second-grade class performs in "Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute."